



Blue Knights Wisconsin VI

September 2011 Chapter Newsletter

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From *Your* Chapter Secretary

As some of you know, my 12 year old computer recently suffered a catastrophic collapse. In addition to needing a complete replacement, the malfunction wiped out virtually every e-mail group I had, and several e-mails sent vanished into the Ethernet. Unfortunately one of the e-mails I lost was a great article written by Ted Engelbart. Ted resent it, and as I promised I'm reprinting it here for your enjoyment.

Ted's Tale

Well, I didn't get this article in time for the July newsletter as we didn't get back home from the International Blue Knight Convention until Sunday, July 24th and I needed a couple days to recuperate. Yeah, recuperation from some great riding, consisting of hundreds of miles of mild slopes, steep hills, gentle turns, sharp curves and numerous bridges and tunnels. These roads presented some unbelievable scenery including views from mountain tops looking down into the valleys. Picturesque farm fields with burgeoning tobacco crops, flowers, greenery, streams and rivers. We rode through quaint little towns with their historic buildings and friendly people. Part of the route also included the Tail of the Dragon, all 318 curves in 11 miles. We also rode across the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Shenandoah Mountain Pass. Yes, it did indeed take a few days to return to reality.

It all started on Friday, morning July 15th when we, Pat and I and Mike Stroessner met up with our adventurous and fearless leader Bob Barr in Oak Creek. As you are all aware Bob has created some exceptional brunch and dinner rides for our members in the Wisconsin area. Well, just think what he could do with a couple thousand miles. You're right after many, many days of planning various routes to the convention and back again Bob again created a fantastic ride.

Joining us in Oak Creek was Herman Kremkau, Eddie Kunicki and Steve Schultz. Cindy Stroessner and Diane Kremkau were flying to the convention and met up with us on Tuesday, July 19th.

Pat and I always felt that it is the journey to and from your destination that lingers in your mind well after the trip. The camaraderie that is established and fortified as you are all experiencing the trials and tribulations of the ride. Yep, the good with the bad that you all laugh at afterwards.

Just for an example at one motel Pat and I experienced some problems with the first couple rooms that we had. Well, we were transferred to the other side of the motel where there was a big pool party going on with about 50 men, women and children in the pool area. All the parking spaces were filled and so I had to leave my bike on the other side. Two large barbecue grilles were placed by the pool and they were barbecuing ribs and chicken. Hmmmm I didn't see any watermelon though. Oh well, let me continue, there was a big truck with several large speakers blasting hip hop music beneath our room. Yes, I did mention this to the desk clerk and she said that she would tell them to be quiet after 9:00pm. It must have worked as they quieted down by 3:00am.

Well the next morning all but one vehicle was parked all the others were gone. It turned out that only two rooms were actually being occupied, ours and the one occupied by the couple who invited all of their friends to visit, barbecue and use the pool. All the other rooms on this side of the complex were closed due to some remodeling. Hey, as I said it's all part of the journey, it was funny to me the next morning and still funny today, boy were we tired, but you can name any hip hop song and I think that Pat and I can sing it.

Okay, back to the trip we arrived in Chesapeake, Va. on Tuesday, afternoon and met up with Diane and Cindy. We spent a little time in the hospitality room where Bob was grabbed by our entertainer, a Patsy Cline look alike, who actually sang like Patsy too. She commented that Bob was one of the best men she had ever danced with. Okay, she really didn't say that, I just thought that I would throw that in. Just before retiring for the evening Pat wanted to do some laundry, well she put the dirty clothes in the dryer instead of the washing machine, ah can you say TIRED!!!!!!!

We meet up with Joe & Doni Kubicek, Jim & Patti Kindt, Chuck & Kathy Homa, Dennis Hafeman & Laura, Carl Karwacki & Janis, Sandy Santoro, Scott Wysocki, Randy & Peggy Winkler and Mike Zivicki and we able to be seated together in the same area for the banquet thanks to Patti and for getting the banquet hall early and reserving tables for us. It was a good meal and again a good time. As Dennis had mentioned in his article one of our own Sandy Santoro was presented with the prestigious Life Saving award from the International Board. It made Pat and me very proud to not only have her as a member of our club, but as a friend too.

Okay, my finger is getting sore, you did notice that I said finger instead of fingers so I'll shorten this up. While at the convention we made new friends, went sightseeing and enjoyed all the activities.

Bob, now known to me as my commander led us back home on Friday, morning July 22nd. Joe & Doni and Jim and Patti join our little group as we departed. Joe and Doni hurriedly left our group early something about some afternoon delight at the motel before our arrival. Well as I had said early it's the journey and when we arrived at the motel Joe was waiting for us with some cold beer that I really needed and not just because of my thirst. Thank you Joe!!!!!!!

On Saturday, July 23rd Joe and Doni, along with Jim & Patti left our group early so that they could check out the pool by our next motel prior to our arrival and sure enough as we pulled in they assured us that the pool was safe to enter as they were in the process of testing the comfort level of the water for us.

On Sunday, July 24th we left an hour before Joe & Doni and Jim & Patti, something about them sleeping in after a long night of hmmm, let's just say activity.

Commander Bob's troops were ready to depart at 6:00pm. Oh did I mention rain, I mean lots of rain, yes wouldn't you know it we encountered rain on our last leg of the journey as we drove through the loop in Chicago. Pat and I arrived home safe and sound on Sunday afternoon with many great memories of a very enjoyable and amusing time with friends. Again a very big "Thank You" to Bob Barr for making this happen for us.

2011 International Convention



2011 Fall Midwest Regional Convention

How do I sum up this event in as few words as possible? I know; crappy weather/good time! The fall MWRC was held in Spirit Lake, Iowa from September 16-18. Joe and Doni Kubicek and Jim and Patti Kindt got a head start on the festivities by leaving early Thursday morning, thus beating the upcoming crap weather. There was an interesting road tale, but due to a secrecy pact I made with "Tiny" I'm not at liberty to disclose their adventure. Sorry guys, you'll just have to drag that one out of him yourselves. I left Thursday evening in the company of Carl Karwacki and Janis Smolinski, and all I can say is "thank God for heated grips." The three of us made it 207 miles to La Crosse before calling it a night; the rest of the WI VI crew had already made the 437 mile journey and were well established in the hospitality suite at the same time.

The weekend would be overcast, cool, and rainy, not conducive to good riding. A shame really; Spirit Lake looked to be a very beautiful area for motorcycling. The weather put a damper on the boat rides the host chapter (Iowa IV) was offering, but it didn't seem to affect the spirits in the hospitality suite one bit. It was great catching up with our friends in the Midwest Conference. The evening did have one downer; a member of Missouri III slipped on a rain slick painted lane divider and went down, breaking his shoulder. Ironically, MWRC Safety Officer Paul French would be handing out a guide to riding in the rain which covered this hazard. Fortunately he was treated and released, and did return to the convention.

Joe and I attended the Saturday morning business meeting as special guests, and had the dubious honor of being introduced as "the Wisconsin twins," later changed to "the Milwaukee twins" by MWRC Chairman Rick McCrea. The most important items to come from their short meeting were the locations for the 2012 Midwest Conventions. The spring MWRC will be held in Winona, Minnesota from June 8-10, 2012, hosted by MN I. The fall MWRC will tentatively return to Olathe, Kansas from September 7-9, 2012, hosted again by KS VIII. I'll get registration forms out to all of you as it gets closer to the 2012 riding season. Joe did give the membership information about our 2013 Spring GLRC in reply to their request to have WI VI host another International Convention in Milwaukee.

After the meeting there was an organized ride to the local HD dealership for lunch, followed by more liquid camaraderie in the hospitality suite until the evening banquet. Good food, but the host hotel found out that cops eat a lot. They unfortunately ran out of food before all the guests were served. The chapter put on a live auction after dinner, with Joe Kubicek winning three Jim Beam decanters, all styled after antique police vehicles. Then back to the hospitality suite for one more hurrah before parting company.

Joe/Doni, Jim/Patti and I would conclude our trip with an early ride home, with the goal of stopping in Wisconsin somewhere for lunch and to watch the Packers/Panthers game. In a rare venture into my world, Joe actually forgot where the target tavern was, searching for it in Mauston instead of Lyndon Station. We did find the place in time to watch the majority of the Packers victory. It also gave the crap weather a chance to catch up to us, so we could all enjoy riding home from The Dells in rain. It was a dismal end to what was an otherwise fun weekend.

"Lost in America,"

"Wrongway" Dennis

Minutes of the Chapter Meeting

- 1) The meeting was called to order by President Jim Kindt at 7:05 PM on Tuesday, September 20, 2011.
- 2) President Kindt led the membership in a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence for the members of Heaven I.
- 3) **Introductions:** President Kindt introduced Danny O'Toole, a former WI VI member returning to the chapter. Paul Serdynski introduced Jeff Haig, also a former member of WI VI who wished to address the membership later.
- 4) **Reading of the minutes:** Bob McDermott made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes from the 5/17/11 meeting; seconded by Tom Listinsky. Motion carried.
- 5) **Treasurer's report:** Treasurer Bortmess reported on the finances of the chapter (final numbers will not be published in this forum). A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Bob McDermott; seconded by Chuck Homa. Motion carried.
- 6) **Old business:**
 - A) **2012 Sweethearts Dance.** Co-Chairs Sandy Santoro and Kim Fischer reported that they have researched different venues for the annual dance. Kim reported that of the venues explored the Knights of Columbus on S. 108/W. Oklahoma Ave appeared to be the best. They are willing to let us use the hall for free and supply everything needed, except the chapter would not be able to bring in our own beer (must be purchased from them). Kim did not have a cost for the beer. Of the two K of C locations checked the Oklahoma Ave. one had the larger capacity. The possibility of changing the date and theme was discussed, with March 10 being a potential date. President Kindt stated that booze raffle tickets should be printed up as soon as possible to utilize our existing raffle number. Joe Kubicek stated he would not run the booze raffle this year. Jim Bagurdes stated he would run this raffle. Joe stated that Debut Printing had donated the tickets in the past. Kim asked the membership to start collecting raffle items and baskets. Kim further stated that the K of C is willing to supply food, with \$3 pulled pork sandwiches for sale. Mike Zivicki suggested a later date to avoid conflict with any other events taking place and attendees spending more money before other fund raisers begin. After further discussion a potential date of Saturday, April 21, 2012 was decided; Kim would check with the K of C to see if the date was available. Donation letters will be available at the next meeting. President Kindt asked Joe Kubicek if Doni would be willing to handle decorations again. He also asked that members begin collecting booze for the booze raffle, and reiterated getting quality donations. Kim stated that she and Sandy discussed a name change, with "Spring Fling" being suggested.
 - B) **Chapter challenge coins.** Joe Kubicek stated that the chapter challenge coins are in. Quartermaster Jim Bagurdes has them, and they will be featured in the upcoming International sales catalog. The chapter sales permit allows us to sell the coins to both BK members and non-Blue Knights. The cost of the coin is \$10 to non-chapter members; \$5 for chapter members using them for trading. It's expected that any members selling their personal coins for \$10 give \$5 back to the chapter.
 - C) **2013 Spring GLRC.** Joe Kubicek stated that in May the chapter membership voted to give him authority to research hosting the 2013 Spring GLRC and present a bid if a favorable package was developed. Joe stated that the chapter won the bid for the conference. Seven hotels were toured, and three offered competitive packages (Radisson, Wyndham Airport, and Double Tree Downtown). Joe stated that at the summer GLRC in August WI VI "bid against itself" and presented bids for the Wyndham and the Double Tree to the membership. Joe stated the price difference between the two hotels was about \$40 higher for the Double Tree for the

weekend. The membership voted to go to the Wyndham Airport. The dates for the convention will be Friday, March 1 to Sunday, March 3, 2013. The Wyndham will allow the chapter to bring in our own beer, booze, food (pizzas on Friday), and free surface lot parking. As the convention is over a year away committees have not yet been formed. Joe stated that several conferences are seeing members arriving early (on Thursday), and he discussed the possibility of contacting Lakefront Brewery to arrange a private tour for these early arrivals. He also stated that he spoke briefly with the curator of the HD Museum about the possibility of reduced rates for attendees on Saturday. He stated that at the GLRC in Cleveland the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame gave free passes to the first 50 members who signed up. Joe stated that the last two spring GLRCs had attendance of 160-180, but due to our chapter's reputation in the club and the success of our International Convention we may see higher attendance, with members of other conferences coming back to Milwaukee.

- D) **Old business from the floor.** Bob McDermott asked President Kindt why he did not have the gavel. President Kindt stated it was forgotten at home, but stated that his use of it during the May meeting created issues on the recorder for the secretary. **There was no further old business discussed.**

7) **New business:**

A) **International and GLRC updates.**

Secretary Hafeman gave stated that at the 2011 International Convention Sandy Santoro received the Board of Governors Lifesaving Award. However, the certificate issued to her had the wrong chapter number listed. Secretary Hafeman stated he contacted Jimmy Schneider of the BOG and had the certificate and commendation letter reissued with the correct chapter information. Secretary Hafeman presented the certificate to Sandy; she thanked him for nominating her.

Secretary Hafeman further stated that for the first time the chapter won the 100% Retention Award from the International, and passed the certificate amongst the members to view.

International officer elections will now be held at the International Convention, with ballot counting taking place on Tuesday, and election results and swearing in of officers taking place at the International Banquet. The motion to make this happen was opposed by the majority of members, but not enough votes were obtained to overturn the motion, so it passed and is now a bylaw. There is a committee in place exploring the possibility of electronic voting and having an outside agency tally the votes instead of having members do this.

The International stated that conferences are now able to opt out of receiving a mailed copy of the Board of Directors meeting minutes. If a conference opts out, an additional \$500 will be made available to them for recruiting and retention.

Minutes from these meetings can be obtained on the International web site by all members, instead of a hard copy being mailed to the chapter secretary. Secretary Hafeman, with the permission of President Kindt, asked the members to vote if they wanted to opt out of receiving the mailed minutes. The membership voted; with 28 for opting out and 1 opposed. Secretary Hafeman stated he would inform State Rep Dane Nelsen of the chapter's decision.

The 2012 Spring GLRC will be in Niagara Falls, NY, hosted by NY V. The dates are Friday, March 30-Sunday April 1, 2012. The host hotel is the Sheridan, with a room rate of \$79 per night. Registration will be \$65. The 2012 Summer GLRC will be in Collingwood, Ontario, Canada, hosted by ON VIII. The dates are Friday, August 17-Sunday August 19, 2012. The host hotel is the Blue Mountain Resort, about five and a half hours north of Windsor. Room rates are \$94 per night;

registration will be \$80. These are Canadian funds and not US dollars. Secretary Hafeman stated that he has registration forms for both of these events, and will make them available to the members after the first of the year. President Kindt stated that at nominations will be made at the 2012 Spring GLRC for conference officers, and elections will be held at the summer GLRC. He stated that both Dennis Hafeman and Joe Kubicek will be running for office and he would vote for them with the chapter's permission. Secretary Hafeman stated that the offices of GLRC chairman and vice chairman required the candidate to be a current or past chapter president; the officers of secretary and treasurer can held by a regular member.

The 2013 Summer GLRC will be in Muncie, Indiana, hosted by IN I. The dates have not been set yet; the host chapter is looking into a different campground instead of the FOP campground. The dates will be anywhere from the second to the fourth weekend in August. It will be primarily a camping event, with registration being \$50. Joe Kubicek stated that there are hotels in the area for those not wishing to camp. No further information is available on this convention at this time.

- B)** President Kindt stated that during the summer he made three \$100 donations with the approval of the chapter board present at that time. He stated that donations were made to both WI I and WI XVIII to buy a golf hole at their respective fund raiser golf outings, and the third donation was made at the Fall Midwest Regional Convention to OK II member Sarah Pierce, whose family lost their home and all their possessions in a fire. Due to an issue with their insurance company they are not receiving any settlement. President Kindt asked the membership if they had an issue with him making these donations; there were none opposed to his doing this.

There was no further new business discussed.

8) Announcement/Good of the order:

- A) Packers/Bears game.** President Kindt read the flyer sent to him by Illinois X. Event particulars can be found in the "Upcoming 2011 Events" section of the newsletter. President Kindt stated that several members will be staying overnight, and Joe Kubicek stated the local hotel is a Super 8, located at 630 N. Green Bay Rd in Waukegan, Illinois. There is an all you can eat pig roast starting at 2:00 PM; the cost is \$5 per person. This is a chapter sponsored event, and all members are encouraged to attend.
- B) WI II Fall Ride and Chili Feed.** President Kindt also read a flyer for this event. The particulars can be found in the "Upcoming 2011 Events" section as well. Proceeds from this ride benefit the Tomorrow's Hope House, a battered women's shelter in Jefferson.
- C) 2012 Spring MWRC.** Joe Kubicek stated that this event will be June 8-10, 2012 in Winona, Minnesota. On Saturday there will be a ride to Slippery's in Wabasha where Grumpy Old Men was filmed. There is also an eagle center in Wabasha where for a donation you can have you picture taken with an eagle by your bike. The host chapter is opening the hospitality suite Thursday night for anyone coming a day early. Secretary Hafeman stated that he has registration forms for this event.
- D)** President Kindt stated that he wants photos of Blue Knight events featuring our chapter members. He is requesting these photos be given to him on a flash drive or a CD. At recent conventions he's seen these types of photos being shown on a computer, and would like to be able to do this at our events. He would also like copies of these photos kept in the chapter archives.
- E)** Bob McDermott asked if there was an update on Jerry Pieper. Secretary Hafeman stated that he had an e-mail sent by Jerry's wife Evie on 9/13/11. He explained that Jerry is a founding member of WI VI, and a past chapter president. Jerry moved to

Sale Creek, Tennessee 11 years ago. Recently, Jerry was hospitalized for two minor strokes. During testing doctors found that one of his carotid arteries was 100% blocked, the other 97% blocked, and his renal artery was also severely blocked. Stents opened the renal artery and lowered his blood pressure, but doctors are unable to do anything to open the carotids. There is an experimental procedure that will help, but insurance doesn't cover it. A local hospital will do a clinical trial for him, and he will be seeking treatment there.

- F) President Kindt also stated that next December elections for chapter officers will occur. He stated that Secretary Hafeman has already informed the chapter board that he will not be seeking re-election as chapter secretary. President Kindt indicated that the membership should start thinking about who they would like to nominate. Secretary Hafeman stated the office is not difficult, and is willing to help anyone elected chapter secretary.
 - G) Guest Jeff Haig addressed the membership about "Ryder's Ride." The ride happens Saturday, October 1, with registration at Milwaukee HD at 9:30 AM. The ride begins at 11:00 AM, going through the Holy Hill area and includes stops at Tally Ho and Madam Belle's, returning to Milwaukee HD. There is a post ride party at Milwaukee HD starting at 2:00 PM. Registration is \$15 per bike. The proceeds benefit the Yell and Tell program; a program which teaches children to summon help if another child is in peril. The program came into being when Ryder, the 4 year old grandson of Jean Davidson accidentally drowned. Witness children did not know what to do; this program teaches them how to get help. He also stated that on October 2 the Kettle Moraine HOG chapter will be doing their annual fall colors ride. Money raised will be donated to the Waukesha County Sheriff and New Berlin PD and the Yell and Tell program.
 - H) Bob Barr stated that "Big" Steve Schultz had been recently hospitalized for a serious health issue. He is currently home, but is receiving daily care.
 - I) Discussion took place regarding a chapter fall colors ride. Pete Simet stated that due to some health issues of his own he is unable to lead this ride. Bob Barr stated he would, but would seek help/suggestions from other members. A tentative date of Sunday, October 9 was decided upon. Joe Kubicek stated that the Packers game that day is a "late game." No further information is available at this time.
- 9) **Next meeting is Tuesday, October 18, 2011 at 7:00 PM. Alioto's Restaurant.**
- 10) **50/50 drawing.** \$146 was collected for the raffle. Jim Bagurdes won \$73, and \$73 was given to the chapter treasury.
- 11) A motion to close the meeting was made by Joe Kubicek, and seconded by Chuck Homa. President Kindt closed the meeting at 7:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis H. Hafeman
Secretary, Blue Knights WI VI



ROLL CALL

Dennis Hafeman, Joe Kubicek,
Chuck Homa, Danny O'Toole,
James Bagurdes, Sandy Santoro,
Al Miller, Jesse Benitez, Mike
Zivicki, Kim Fisher-Waliszewski,
Mary and Gary Davey, Bob Barr,
Peter Simet, Scott Wysocki, Mike
and Cindy Stroessner, Kenn
Ziebell, Eddie Kunicki, Steve
Bzdusek, Julian Gonzalez Jr.,
Paul Serdynski, Robert
McDermott, Tom Listinsky,
Andre and Kristi Bleickardt, Carl
Karwacki, Brian Bortmess, Jim
Kindt, Larry Thompson, (guest)
Jeff Haig



Happy Birthday!

Patti Kindt-September 1st
William Deglman-September 1st
Jim Dunn-September 14th
Kevin Porter-September 18th
Dan Schmerse-September 22nd
Jim Peterson-September 25th
Jim Kindt-September 28th

2011 UPCOMING EVENTS

Crying Towel Classic Round 1 **September 25**
Hosted by Illinois X **Kickoff is at 3:15 PM**
Pig Roast (\$5) begins at 2:00 PM
Jester's, 1500 N. Lewis Ave, Waukegan IL

9th Annual colors ride/chili feed **October 16**
Hosted by Wisconsin II **10:30 AM ride**
Packers/Rams game at noon
VFW Club Post 3589, 1420 S. Main St, Jefferson WI
\$15 for rider, \$10 for passenger

Chapter Rides

Brunch rides are held the
Second Sunday (10:00 AM)

AND

Dinner rides are held the
Fourth Wednesday (6:00 PM)

Rides begin in March and run
through November

Meeting location is the park and
ride lot adjacent to the Milwaukee
Children's Center
HWY 45 and W. Watertown Plank
Road

Locations TBD

MWRC SAFETY INFORMATION FALL 2011

TIPS re Riding in Foul Weather Conditions

Only an unusual motorcycle rider enjoys riding in really foul weather, but that doesn't mean you'll never have to do it. Rain, ice and snow can all be surprises so you want to know how to handle riding in poor weather.

Rain poses **two major challenges: traction and vision**. Traction seems to be the primary concern for most riders. Watch out for metal fixtures (such as manhole covers and bridge gratings), painted areas, and places where built-up oil and grease have not washed off; these become much slipperier when wet. However, there is still a surprising amount of traction on clean asphalt or concrete.

You can **test traction** by testing a surface with your rear break. (Before you do this: make sure your tires are in good shape; you need a reasonable amount of tread depth). If you do this at moderate speeds on a flat, straight road, it won't become a thrill ride. Avoid locking up the rear wheel on a steeply crowned road, where it will tend to slide downhill and out of line.

Once you have a feel for traction, you should have some idea of how much you can safely ask the tires to deliver under braking and cornering.

There are additional steps you can take to improve traction. Premium aftermarket tires are virtually certain to give better wet-road grip than original-equipment tires. Additionally, a slight increase in tire pressure will improve wet-weather traction.

Be very careful of any large metal road surfaces or metal sections running parallel to your direction of travel including expansion joints, metal plates and railroad tracks. Painted surfaces can be almost as slippery as metal.

Turning a motorcycle on slick, wet surfaces demands a smooth touch. Braking abruptly or making a sudden steering input could get you into trouble. Additionally, initiate your turns a bit more gradually. Downshift smoothly, engaging the clutch a bit slower than usual, and avoid abrupt throttle changes. Use a taller gear to reduce the forces reaching the rear tire. Apply the brakes in such a way that the tires are not loaded abruptly. Allow more space to stop or slow down so that you need less. And also make sure that drivers around you have time to react to your moves.

You already know that drivers have trouble seeing you. This is an even larger issue in the rain, low light, obscured windows, and a foggy windshield, will additionally impair driver visibility. Consider a bright rain-suit, and retro-reflective striping or panels.

Also **consider your own vision**. Your view can be impaired by face shield fogging or a windshield that rises into your line of sight. Rain-X type products do help disperse water on both face- and, more importantly, windshields.

Blue Knights are recognized as law enforcement officers and are looked to as examples. So **[RIDE SAFE AND RIDE WITH PRIDE. Show the public that we consider SAFETY AS #1....](#)**